

El Dorado County U.S. 50 Placerville Operational Improvements

Location Map:



Project Location:

On Route 50 within the City of Placerville in El Dorado County from west of the W. Placerville Undercrossing to Clay Street Undercrossing.

EA: 3555U1
PPNO: 3209

Co/Rte/KP/PM:

ED-50, KP 26.9/29.1 (PM 16.7/18.1)
ED-49, KP 23.7 (PM 14.8)

Project Description:

The project has been identified due to the increase in regional and interregional traffic, which results in congestion in the Placerville area. The resulting backups gridlock surrounding traffic patterns since alternative local routes are limited.

The project will include the following improvements:

1. A new eastbound auxiliary and acceleration lane between the Placerville Drive on-ramp and approximately 210 meters east of Bedford Avenue;
2. A two lane road connection from the existing eastern terminus of Placerville Drive to the existing western terminus of Main Street;

3. Improvements to traffic signals at the intersections of Route 50 at Canal Street, Route 49 (Spring Street), and Bedford Avenue;
4. Local street widening improvements for vehicle storage at the same intersections;
5. The lengthening of existing Route 50 left-turn pockets for vehicle storage at the intersections;
6. Closure of the existing eastbound off-ramp to Main Street; and
7. Various Context Sensitive Solutions and Transportation Enhancement Activity (TEA) features.

Scope of Project:

The project will improve the operations of the existing highway as it extends through Placerville. The project will make improvements to decrease the congestion in and near the City of Placerville, which will improve the livability within the city. Currently there are considerable backups due to commuter and recreational traffic.

The project provides an interregional benefit by decreasing congestion to job centers and recreational traffic going to the County and the Tahoe Region. The ITIP funding request augments funding already provided by EDCTC.

Existing Funding: (1,000's)

IIP: \$4,500
RIP: \$4,400
GF RIP: \$12,681
Local FHWA- HBRR: \$912
SHOPP TEA: \$1,203

Future Funding Need:

The funding for this project has been moved to the 05/06FY and beyond. Escalation will need to be addressed when project funds are voted.

Project Schedule: CON SUP 05/06
CON 05/06

Total Estimated Cost: (1,000's) \$34,281

PROJECT INFORMATION

Purpose & Need for the Project:

The project would improve safety and relieve traffic congestion during both peak and off-peak periods within the project area by providing a direct connection between downtown Placerville and Placerville Drive.

The need for the project has been identified due to the increase in local, regional, and interregional traffic, which results in backups in the Placerville area. The resulting backup gridlocks surrounding traffic patterns. Alternative local routes are limited. As peak period traffic increases over time, conditions will deteriorate and make it more difficult for fire, police, and medical personnel to respond to emergencies. The project will result in operational improvements for both local traffic and interregional traffic.

Traffic flow in the project limits currently experiences congestion on a recurring basis. Because the demand exceeds capacity through the three signalized intersections, queues can back up considerable lengths during peak times. This can occur for all directions of both local streets and Route 50. Peak hour congestion for eastbound traffic is more pronounced during the typical Friday afternoon/evening peaks, which are frequently attributed to weekend recreational traffic. This peak is now spreading to Thursdays; and as demand continues to increase beyond capacity, trips can only be displaced to other times, other routes, or not made at all. Peak hour traffic for the westbound direction is more pronounced on Sunday and is currently spreading into the Monday commute. As the area experiences continuing population growth and travel demand, peak hour congestion will spread to more hours of the day. By 2025 congested conditions in and around Placerville can be expected to last most of the day and occur most of the week.